

FIRST a date for your diary. The Society have organised a Sponsored Walk for the Sunday afternoon of October 7th from Sleaford to Anwick. The proceeds will be split between RADIO LINCOLNSHIRE "Going for Gold" appeal to raise money for ambulance for St Johns Ambulance Brigade, the CHILDRENS COUNTRY HOLIDAY FUND which provides country holidays for underprivileged children and the Society's GENERAL RESTORATION FUND.

Please support the event. Sponsor forms are attached to this letter, but others can be obtained from committee members. The 5 miles walk should be relatively easy walking and it is hoped to serve refreshments at Anwick Social Club. Start time is 2 pm at Riverside Green Car Park, Eastgate, Sleaford.

THE WEEK BEFORE the walk sees the visit by members of the National Restoration Committee of the Inland Waterway Association to see what support is needed by the society. Our project was one of ten nationwide which was chosen by the IWA to be offered particular attention.

ADAS SURVEY

The survey has now been completed and a very find job has been carried out on our behalf by Simon Bamford of Adas. His report covers all the options involved in providing navigable depth between Cobbler and Haverholme and makes fascinating reading.

To implement all aspects would have a commercial cost of approximately £220,000 but it is believed much of this work can be carried out by voluntary groups. Two new weirs and bank raising are the main physical work, although drainage into the waterway will require some pumps to be fitted and drain realignment. Negotiations are about to start with NRA and landowners.

COBBLERS WORK CAMP

The Waterway Recovery Group and the Kent and East Sussex Canal Restoration Group paid us a visit in June and started to rebuild the lock walls. The top wing walls were also rebuilt with stop plank grooves being cut and steel channels fitted. This will allow the lock to be closed off and reopened far easier. Further work parties under the guidance of Dave Carnell have continued this work. Anyone who would like further information on work parties can contact any committee member or Dave direct on 0469 - 30138 or 0469 - 30392.

A working party is being arranged for the weekend of 17 - 18 November with accommodation at Anwick Social Club from the evening of the 16th. Please contact Dave if you would like to take part, whether to stay over or come for a day. You will enjoy it!

BOAT GATHERING

Thanks in large part to the effort of Pat Taylor, the boat gathering in May was a great success. 31 boats attended with 17 going up to Cobblers Lock. Water levels created problems for some, but it was marvellous to see such a large group of boats moored below Cobblers and Cobblers Lock showing signs of rebuilding.

BOTTOM LOCK BATTENS

Because of low levels we obtained consent (very quickly and amicably) from NRA to add a batten to the weirs on Bottom Lock thus improving the water levels through South Kyme by a few inches. These have to be removed between November and March. They appear to have worked and we have already received thanks from members of the village for the improvements.

£6000

The Society has received a grant of £6000 from the Rural Development Commission towards Cobblers Lock. This is a marvellous boost and helps work to continue whilst we negotiate the details for the work on the Anwick Haverholme project.

COMMITTEE

We are delighted to see new faces on the Committee.

Neil Evans has already got heavily involved in the working parties and living locally is a great help.

Stuart Martin has offered to review the flora and fauna of the waterway. This became particularly important with the works which are now being considered.

Dave Pullen's other life as a boat owner and employee of ADAS brings good practical input to the Committee.

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION SOCIETY COMMITTEE 1990/91

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